

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants greatly acknowledge the draftsmans approval of the drawings.

In response to the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, claim 3 has been cancelled.

At paragraph 5 of the Official Action, claims 1-5, 7-12 and 15-18 are rejected as being anticipated by Japanese Patent 58-178042. The Japanese patent illustrates a tensioner in which the angle between the two arms of the tensioner pivot about a point in a fixed angular orientation. ~~The applicants vigorously~~ traverse this rejection.

The applicants note that the rejection completely ignores express limitations in each of the independent claims. Those limitations are that the belt system includes an AGS (alternator/generator/starter) pulley and a crankshaft pulley. Applicant's invention is not simply a fixed offset tensioner as the rejection suggests. Rather, applicant's invention is a drive system in which the fixed offset tensioner is used in conjunction with an AGS pulley and a crankshaft pulley. In as much as the rejection makes no reference whatsoever to express elements of the claims, the applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 must fail. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn.

At paragraph 7 of the Official Action, claim 6, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Japanese patent in view of Cancilla, U.S. Patent 4,069,719. Cancilla is cited as teaching a tensioner including a resilient member.

The applicants traverse the §103 rejection for the reasons indicated above, namely, as in the anticipation rejection, the rejection ignores express limitations in the independent claims. Additionally, the applicants note that the teachings of Cancilla would not lead a person skilled in the art to modify the teachings in the Japan reference as proposed in the rejection. In this regard, the applicants note that Cancilla is specifically directed to a chain tensioner for a chain drive. Cancilla is not directed to a power transmission belt drive nor does Cancilla specifically relate to a system employing an AGS pulley and a crankshaft pulley as claimed by the applicant. The applicants acknowledge, however, that resilient members have been used in belt tensioners previously. Indeed, the assignee of this application has designed tensioners including flat spring resilient members. However, in accordance with the invention, a specific type of tensioner, namely, a tensioner having a fixed offset is used in a specific drive system, namely, a system employing an AGS pulley and a crankshaft pulley. In accordance with preferred embodiments of the invention of the invention, as defined in new claims 19-26, the AGS pulley is a driving pulley and the crankshaft pulley is a driven pulley and the fixed offset tensioner engages the belt on opposite sides of the AGS pulley. The drive system and method defined by the original claims and the particular drive system defined by the new claims are not suggested by the combined teachings of the references. While applicants acknowledge that belt tensioners having resilient members are known, the applicants submit that the references do not include any teaching that would lead a person of ordinary skill

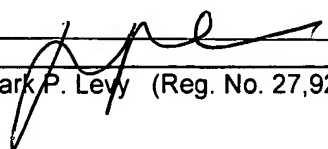
Docket No. 01-22
Serial No. 10/072,127
Page 6 of 6

in the art to use a resilient member in a fixed offset tensioner and to use that tensioner in a drive system with an AGS and a crankshaft pulley.

In view of the foregoing, favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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